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SOURCE Literaturnaya Gazeta, No 37, 1950.NEW DATA ON THE NATURE OF VIRUSES AND MICROBES

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 Experimental Veterinary Medicine

[A Digest]

When the general relationships governing the transition of microorganisms from one stage into the other became clear, I and my collaborators succeeded in obtaining microbe forms from nine causative factors of virus diseases. We were the first human beings who had seen under an ordinary microscope the causative factors of rabies, typhus, autumn encephalitis, and the foot and mouth disease.

As a result of our work, certain postulates of Pasteur had to be revised. Thus, Pasteur held that after the contents of a flask containing meat broth and egg yolk have been boiled no trace of life remains in the flask. We have shown the fallacy of Pasteur's view that boiling kills all life. In our laboratory virus strains of the causative factor of infectious equine anemia were boiled for 40 minutes and then passed twice through an autoclave where the virus was exposed to a temperature of 120°C. Nevertheless, this treatment did not kill the virus.

Why, then, does boiling protect us from the pathogenic effect of microorganisms? When microbes are exposed to high temperatures, they lose their capacity to produce disease. The conditions under which microbes and viruses perish are very different from those imagined by Pasteur, however. The high resistance of viruses which we have established throws an entirely different light on their ability to grow, spread, and exist in nature. Viruses do not have to be cell parasites in order to survive: this is only one form of their adaptation. Wherever favorable conditions and a supply of nucleoproteids derived from perishing plant and animals exist, viruses come into being. Why assume that life which was created billions of years ago on our naked and lifeless planet cannot come into existence today in the midst of a plentiful supply of organic material?

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There can be no doubt that our theories will be opposed. Some people already refer to our work as a rehash of the "antiquated: author's quotation marks theory of spontaneous generation. But facts are stubborn things. From all ends of the country, we receive letters from physicians, veterinaries, and microbiologists which inform us of new observations that confirm our theory.

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